

ATTACHMENT A

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IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel all pending claims 1 through 25 and enter new claims 26 to 58, in lieu thereof without prejudice or disclaimer as follows :

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CLAIMS

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26. A cosmetic composition comprising, as an active ingredient, at least one substance which promotes the intercellular communication of skin cells, particularly keratinocytes, fibroblasts and skin preadipocytes, in a cosmetically acceptable excipient.

27. The composition of claim 26, wherein said substance promotes intercellular communication via the gap junctions of skin cells, particularly keratinocytes, fibroblasts and skin preadipocytes.

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28. The composition of claim 26, wherein said substance which promotes intercellular communication promotes the formation of connexin.

29. The composition of claim 26, wherein said substance which promotes intercellular communication comprises at least one lipid extract of the alga Skeletonema.

5 30. The composition of claim 29, wherein said lipid extract of the alga Skeletonema is a lipid extract of the alga Skeletonema costatum.

31. The composition of claim 30, wherein said lipid extract is a total lipid extract.

10 32. A cosmetic composition comprising, as an active ingredient at least one lipid extract of the alga Skeletonema, obtained by extracting the alga Skeletonema with an alcoholic solvent selected from the group consisting of isopropanol, ethanol and methanol.

33. The composition of claim 32, wherein the lipid extract is obtained by extracting the alga with isopropanol.

15 34. The composition of claim 32, wherein the lipid extract is obtained by extracting the alga with ethanol.

35. The composition of claim 32, wherein the extraction is performed under reflux.

20 36. The composition of claim 32, wherein the alga is frozen before being extracted with the alcoholic solvent, the freezing being effected at a temperature of between about  $-40^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  and for a period of time ranging between about 1 and 7 days.

37. The composition of claim 36, wherein the frozen alga is immersed directly in the heated alcoholic solvent.

25 38. The composition of claim 32, wherein the lipid algal extract is obtained after the following series of steps:

- a) the alcoholic solvent is alkalized to a pH ranging between 10 and 14.
- b) the insoluble materials are removed from the aqueous-alcoholic phase,
- c) distilled water is added to the aqueous-alcoholic phase,
- d) the solution obtained is subjected to liquid-liquid extraction with an apolar solvent immiscible with the aqueous-alcoholic phase.
- 30 e) the phase containing the apolar solvent is removed,
- f) the aqueous-alcoholic phase recovered after removal of the phase containing the apolar solvent is acidified to a pH ranging between 1 and 3.
- 35 g) the solution obtained after acidification is subjected to liquid-liquid extraction with an apolar solvent immiscible with the aqueous-alcoholic phase.

- h) the aqueous-alcoholic phase is removed, and
- i) the phase containing the apolar solvent recovered after removal of the aqueous-alcoholic phase is evaporated to give an oil free of apolar solvent, this oil being the target lipid extract of said alga.

- 5 39. The composition of claim 32, wherein the extract is obtained by extraction with supercritical CO<sub>2</sub>.
- 40. The composition of claim 32, wherein, before any extraction operation, the alga is macerated in the alcoholic solvent at room temperature, for a period of time ranging between about 5 minutes and 80 minutes.
- 10 41. The composition of claim 32, wherein the amount of alcoholic solvent used is between about 0.1 liter and 20 liters of solvent, per 100 g of alga, expressed by dry weight of alga.
- 42. The composition of claim 32, wherein the extraction is performed under an inert atmosphere.
- 15 43. The composition of claim 32, wherein the extraction is performed under an inert atmosphere comprising or consisting essentially of a nitrogen-saturated atmosphere.
- 44. The composition of claim 32, comprising from about 0.01% to 10% by weight of said lipid extract of the alga *Skeletonema*, based on the total weight of
- 20 the composition.
- 45. The composition of claim 32, comprising from about 0.1% to 3% by weight of said lipid extract of the alga *Skeletonema*, based on the total weight of the composition.
- 46. The composition of claim 44, wherein the alga *Skeletonema* is the alga
- 25 *Skeletonema costatum*.
- 47. The composition of claim 26, wherein said substance which promotes the intercellular communication of skin cells is boldine.
- 48. The composition of claim 47, comprising from about 0.001% to 10% by weight of boldine, based on the total weight of the composition.
- 30 49. A method of cosmetic skin care, comprising the application, to the skin areas of a person in need thereof, of an effective amount of at least one substance promoting intercellular communication for obtaining an anti-ageing effect on said skin areas, for improving the firmness and elasticity of the skin, for delaying the appearance of wrinkles or for reducing their depth.

50. The method of claim 49, wherein said substance promotes intercellular communication via the gap junctions of keratinocytes, fibroblasts and skin preadipocytes.
51. The method of claim 49, wherein the substance which promotes intercellular communication promotes the formation of connexin.
52. The method of claim 49, wherein the substance which promotes intercellular communication promotes the formation of connexin 43.
53. The method of claim 49, wherein said substance comprises at least one lipid extract of the alga *Skeletonema*, said lipid extract being obtained by liquid-liquid extraction between an alkalized and then acidified alcohol and an apolar solvent immiscible with the aqueous-alcoholic phase.
54. The method of claim 49, wherein said substance is boldine.
55. The method of claim 49, wherein said substance is presenting cosmetic composition comprising from about 0.001% to 10% by weight of said substance, based on the total weight of the cosmetic composition.
56. A method of promoting and/or increasing the activity of a cosmetic agent acting directly in the cell or via intracellular second messengers, comprising the application, simultaneously with or prior to that of said cosmetic agent, to the skin areas of a person in need thereof, of an effective amount of at least one substance promoting intercellular communication.
57. A method of promoting and/or increasing the activity of a cosmetic agent acting directly in the cell or via intracellular second messengers, comprising the application, simultaneously with or prior to that of said cosmetic agent, to the skin areas of a person in need thereof, of an effective amount of boldine.
58. The method of claim 57, wherein said boldine is present in a cosmetic composition comprising from about 0.001% to 10% by weight of boldine, based on the total weight of the cosmetic composition, said cosmetic composition comprising a cosmetically acceptable excipient.